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NRO review(s) completed.

20 DEC 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, Directorate of
Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Table of Organization for the
Office of Special Projects

25X1 1. We are particularly anxious that you be mindful of the recent scenario regarding the establishment of OSP's ceiling at the level of [REDACTED]. We also wish to take the opportunity to register the fact that this is unacceptable as far as we are concerned.

25X1 2. Last summer when it became evident that CIA was to play a role in the National Reconnaissance Office and participate specifically in satellite activities, the OSP was formed. A table of organization was developed based upon a literal interpretation of the NRO Agreement which had been signed in August by Admiral Raborn and Secretary Vance. Using some Kentucky windage in a best "guesstimate" of things to come, we arrived at a magic number of [REDACTED] to carry out the Agency's responsibilities in satellite activities under the National Reconnaissance program auspices. You will recall that the NRO Agreement designates that the Agency in general will confine itself to sensor-type activities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to continue our present level of effort in CORONA, and to permit the preliminary design and system analysis associated with the birth of new systems.

25X1 25X1 3. Approximately two months ago Jack Blake informed me that there was some problem in coming up with slots for the Directorate in FY66, and asked whether we could possibly live with a ceiling of [REDACTED] until 30 June, at which time it would be increased [REDACTED]. Based upon our present level of effort as well as a forecast of the indecisiveness of the NRO to date, I agreed that we would probably not exceed the acquisition of [REDACTED] before 1 July 1966. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we may get caught in a bind, but we were willing to accept that risk at that time.

Copy [REDACTED]

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4. Since my discussion with Jack, several things have happened which makes that early decision somewhat less than prophetic. First of all, it appears that the Agency, instead of being responsible simply for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Additionally, instead of having only the cameras system to worry about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in all likelihood we will be responsible for the cameras, the spacecraft shield surrounding the camera providing structural and thermal environment, the recovery vehicle structure, the shroud surrounding the recovery vehicles, and possibly the recovery vehicles themselves. Moreover, we will be responsible for the sub-systems integration of the entire payload.

5. It is apparent that if the Agency is going to chew all of this responsibility, there should be dramatic changes to the T/O originally proffered. At this crack of the box, it appears that a [REDACTED] will satisfy our responsibilities. However, before coming down hard on this number, we prefer to await specific NRO authorizations and designations of the programs and the magnitude of programs in which we will be engaged. Hopefully, this will be in concrete not long after the turn of the year.

6. With all this in mind, we are loathe to accept what we feel is an arbitrary decision that this Office now be curtailed to a [REDACTED] T/O with the promise that should all the programs go as we now envision them, we will have ample justification to acquire new positions. To this end it may be strategically advantageous for this Office to carry the burden of justifying whatever new slots may be needed. In the long run, however, we wish the record to show that the selection of a [REDACTED] ceiling is not in keeping with the reality of the situation and we can in no way condone it as an acceptable level for this Office.

SIGNED

JOHN N. McMAHON
Deputy Director
Office of Special Projects

cc:

- 1 - EO/DDS&T
- 2 - Personnel Officer/DDS&T

[REDACTED]
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